

Craft Turney Water Supply Corporation
Jacksonville, TX
October 9, 2018

Background

On Oct. 3, the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. notified the TCEQ of a backflow incident impacting a small portion of the system: 11 service connections. The TCEQ suspects a fungicide entered the water supply. The water utility has indicated that this portion of the system has been isolated from the distribution system. The **do not use order** was initially issued to customers of this portion of the distribution system, but was expanded to customers in the general vicinity of these connections as a precaution. Customers in the expanded area, (located in the same hydraulic pressure plane) can use water to flush their toilets but cannot use the water for any other purposes, such as bathing, washing clothes, preparing food, drinking, gardening, or for pets.

Since issuing the order, the TCEQ has been in continuous contact with the water utility's representatives to ensure public awareness of this situation and has initiated multiple measures, including sampling to determine the extent of potential impact in the water system. The TCEQ is coordinating with the water supply corporation, as well as other state partners and EPA Region 6. The water utility has been continuously flushing the system to remove any potential contaminants. TCEQ investigators and engineers are on the ground and working with the water supply corporation to address this issue. The TCEQ has an open investigation into this incident to determine the cause and source.

The **do not use order** will remain in place until the water system has been adequately flushed and samples indicate that the water is safe to use. It is not known at this time how long this may take, but the health and safety of the water supply corporation's customers is TCEQ's priority.

Update

The TCEQ has continued to analyze analytical results of the October 4th sampling event. A review indicated that five samples tested positive for Chlorothalonil (a constituent of the fungicide); three of which were in the original area of 11 homes believed to be impacted and two outside the area. Flushing was completed for 10 of the 11 homes (1 home is unoccupied) and confirmation samples were taken on October 7th of these homes. In addition, confirmation samples were taken from the five sites that tested positive, a complainant's home, two sites outside the area, and one additional new sampling point.

Flushing of the distribution lines will continue for the remainder of the homes on the affected pressure plane and is expected to be completed by the end of this week. The WSC is also planning to provide practical in-home flushing tips for their customers on their web-site.

A sample of Methylene bis-thiocyanate (MBT) arrived at the EPA Houston lab on October 8th, and work began to establish a test method.

On the morning of October 9, the Houston Lab reported they may have a viable GC method and will be performing a demonstration of capability test this morning. They are continuing to advance on LC and IC methods, but they are taking more time to develop.

TCEQ is deploying 5 sampling teams this morning to collect 24 samples on October 9 for MBT analysis. The first round of MBT samples are expected to arrive at the Lab this evening.

Twenty additional pallets of water were delivered to the WSC on October 7, 2018.

Sampling will continue and results analyzed as they become available.

Press

Attached is the October 8, 2018 news release.